

### **Amendment to the Specification:**

Please replace the **Abstract of the Disclosure** section with the following amended **Abstract of the Disclosure**:

An improved hand-held food processor for performing selected cutting operations upon a foodstuff is disclosed comprising an elongated housing, a lever arm extended substantially through the housing and pivotally coupled thereto under a spring bias, and a processing plate containing a cutting panel slidably disposed ~~at the base of the housing~~ and adapted to engage the pivoting lever arm at its lower tip to provide reciprocating cutting motion ~~relative to the housing~~. The housing is formed having a narrow grip-like upper section for handling and an expanded bell-shaped lower section with an open bottom at the base of the housing. The lower section of the housing is further formed having a forward compartment intended to hold the foodstuff to be processed. A spring-driven press mechanism is slidably mounted within the forward compartment of the housing and releasably engaged for activation to push the foodstuff through the compartment and onto the reciprocating plate for delivery of processed foodstuff ~~from the base of the housing~~. ~~The processing plate is adapted to hold different types of cutting panels to process the foodstuff in various forms.~~

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] A flexible leaf spring member 36 is mounted approximately midway along the inclined inner wall at the back of the lower housing section 20 and made to extend inwardly and downwardly at an angle sufficient to press upon the rearward side of the lower section of lever arm 30 in opposition to the spring-loaded bias that is applied to the grip head 30a in the normal stationary position of the lever arm. This spring force applied by the leaf spring member 36 serves to place the tapered tip portion 30b of the lever arm 30 in a position projecting just inside the

plane of travel of processing plate 50 and in direct vertical alignment with the keyway opening 50b at the rear of the processing plate. In this "ready to operate" position, the lever arm 30 and its tapered tip portion 30b is set for immediate engagement with the keyway opening ~~30b~~ 50b and the resulting reciprocating movement of the processing plate 50 in response to the radial motion of the lever arm. It should be noted that this position of the tip portion 30b allows the processing plate 50 to be fully inserted (with "Top" side up) into the bottom of housing 12 through slotted opening 22a, the backward passage of the processing plate meeting only slight resistance from the tip portion urged forward by the leaf spring 36. With the lever arm 30 resting against the leaf spring 36, the tip portion 30b yields by swinging backward until it aligns with and engages the keyway opening 50b of the processing plate as it slides fully into place within the bottom of the housing 12. When lined up with the keyway opening 50b, the tip portion 30b of the lever arm 30 will suddenly engage and protrude into the keyway opening, effectively latching the processing plate with an audible clicking sound. It is further noted that by rotating the grip head 30a forward slightly from its normal position established by torsion spring 32, the lower section of the lever arm 30 and particularly its tip portion 30b can be moved slightly against the pressure of the leaf spring member 36 to raise the tip portion just above the plane of the processing plate 50 and outside of the keyway opening 50b to allow the plate to be easily removed from the housing 12 through slotted opening 22a.